

## **Meeting minutes**

Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council  
May 19, 2006, MDEQ Constitution Hall, Lansing

### **GWCAC meeting attendees, April 19, 2006**

#### **Council Members**

Paul Seelbach	MDNR	734 663 3554	<a href="mailto:seelbacp@michigan.gov">seelbacp@michigan.gov</a>
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Alan Steinman	GVSU	231 728 3601	<a href="mailto:steinmaa@gvsu.edu">steinmaa@gvsu.edu</a>
Suhmed Bahl	AA Water Trtmtnt	734 994 2805	<a href="mailto:sbahl@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us">sbahl@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us</a>
Rich Bowman	TU	616 460 0477	<a href="mailto:rbowman@mctu.org">rbowman@mctu.org</a>

#### **Guests**

Frank Ruswick	MDEQ	517 373 6093	<a href="mailto:ruswickf@michigan.gov">ruswickf@michigan.gov</a>
Jim Nicholas	USGS	517 887 8906	<a href="mailto:jnichol@usgs.gov">jnichol@usgs.gov</a>
Dave Hamilton	MDEQ-LWMD	517 335 3174	<a href="mailto:hamiltod@michigan.gov">hamiltod@michigan.gov</a>
Jim Bredin	MDEQ-OGL	517 335 4232	<a href="mailto:bredinj@michigan.gov">bredinj@michigan.gov</a>

#### **Organizational business**

Heise welcomed new members to the council and explained that the operating principles were based on respect, cordiality, honesty, and open-mindedness, and that decisions were made based on a 'will live with consensus' attitude of the group. The council has been very productive to date using this approach and would continue with it.

It was agreed that the June meeting would be canceled in favor of using this time for individual subcommittee meetings. The full council will meet on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, location to be determined. Co-chairs will work at scheduling the remainder of the year's meetings.

It was agreed that Kurt Heise and Jon Allan would remain as co-chairs, and that Jim Cleland would remain as the third co-chair, pending final designation of the MDNR council representative. At that time the MDNR representative will take over from Jim, paralleling the change in council authority designated in the recent legislation. The council expressed their gratitude to Jim Cleland and Laura Smith for their competent and dedicated service over the past several years.

Cleland noted that the membership list will soon be finalized, distributed to council members, and posted on the website. Seelbach said that the council webpage will soon be moved from the DEQ website to the DNR website, and that a link will remain at the original site.

### **Tasks, and subcommittee and tech support structures**

The council discussed each of the following key tasks and made initial recommendations regarding staffing of council sub-committees to oversee work on each task. Membership on sub-committees is viewed as still evolving, especially as some council members were not in attendance. Where appropriate, the Council named technical experts for a task; in other cases the Council expects the sub-committee to call upon expertise as needed.

The Council will not meet in June in order for sub-committees to meet and begin working. **It is critical that the sub-committees get up-and-running during June. They will be expected to report some progress at the July meeting!** At this time the Council should also revisit the completion deadlines for each task.

#### **Task 1. Recommend regarding implementation and costs of the Council's 2005/06 recommendations. Prioritize where feasible.**

Sub-committee will include the three co-chairs: Cleland, Heise, Allan. Will call upon other council members or assistants (e.g., Nicholas) as needed. Tentative completion by end September 2006.

#### **Task 2. Review ramifications of the new legislation and assessment/management practices to application of existing common law / riparian doctrine regarding water uses.**

Sub-committee will include Clift (chair), Allan, Gregg, Newman. Bredin and Ruswick are available to assist. Will query various legal experts as needed. Will provide some input to design of tool/process and a final review of the resulting product. Tentative completion by end May 2007.

#### **Task 3. Oversee design and development of 'water withdrawal assessment tool'. Make recommendations on policy (social values) aspects of the tool. Recommend a timetable for periodic technical updates.**

Sub-committee includes Allan (chair), Bowman, Piggott, Newhof, Cleland, Pearson, and Bahl. Bob Piggott of MDA and Dave Lusch of MSU are available as technical experts. Components of tool review will include a formal science review, led by MSU IWR, and several public workshops. The technical team focusing on hydrologic and ecological aspects will be Hamilton and staff, Seelbach and staff, and Nicholas and staff. Tentative completion by September 2007.

#### **Task 4. Develop criteria and indicators to evaluate sustainability.**

We are taking a 2-prong approach to this: 1) If MSU-IWR/partners are successful with their proposal to EPASTAR, then the sub-committee will work to integrate council/MSU-IWR efforts towards accomplishing the task. The primary mechanism will involve leading roundtable discussions aimed at pinning down the most useful and practical criteria and indicators; or 2) If MSU-IWR does not get this grant, then the sub-committee will employ a greatly-scaled down approach towards the same goal.

Sub-committee will include Steinman (chair), Newhof, Coleman, Hoffman, Piggott. Investigators from MSU, MDNR, and UM that developed the EPASTAR proposal are available as technical experts. Tentative completion to be determined.

**Task 5. Study question of mitigation of adverse impacts.**

Subcommittee will include Newman (chair), Clift, Henningsen, Mersino, and Allan. Tentative completion to be determined.

**Task 6. Final report and further recommendations to the legislature. Provide testimony as needed on progress. Liason with legislature and departments.**

Responsibility of the co-chairs. Nicholas is available to assist in writing. Tentative target date is July 1, 2007.

**Budget for development of the assessment tool**

Hamilton/Seelbach/Nicholas presented two budgets for development of the hydrologic and ecological aspects of the assessment tool. (see attached budget sheet). 1) The full plan budget allows for incorporation of the most up-to-date hydrologic modeling approaches but requires an additional \$155 K. The council will consider approaching the legislature for this additional support. 2) The basic plan budget uses existing modeling approaches and simple assumptions and fits within the \$500 K legislative appropriation. *The council approved (Clift moved, Newman second) the technical workgroup to proceed with the basic plan budget.*

**Update on Great Lakes Charter Annex implementation**

Bredin provided a brief update of the Annex Implementation process. New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin have, or may soon, introduced implementing legislation. Other states, including Michigan, are not expected to introduce legislation this session. Jim also indicated that the Regional Body, established under the Annex Implementing Agreements, will be meeting for the first time on June 5-6, 2006, in Chicago, Illinois. In addition, Jim Cleland stated that he is participating on the Council of Great Lakes Governor's Conservation Committee to assist in the development of water conservation/efficiency goals for the Great Lakes region as agreed to under the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER  
DIRECTOR

TO: Jon Allan, Co-chair  
Kurt Heise, Co-chair  
Groundwater Advisory Council

FROM: David A. Hamilton, Chief, Water Management Section  
Land and Water Management Division

DATE: May 5, 2006

SUBJECT: Draft budget

Paul Seelbach, Jim Nicholas and I drafted a budget to develop the Groundwater Withdrawal Assessment Tool, as requested at the last Council meeting. The budget covers activities in two fiscal years; FY06 and FY07. It assumes \$500,000 will be appropriated to the DNR, that separate budget requests will cover the DEQ's expenses, and that USGS will have matching funds available. The tasks generally follow those outlined in the document "Developing the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool" that was discussed at the last Council meeting. Two options are presented: 1) "Full Plan", which will allow more complete development of the tool and exploration of technical options to help inform the policy discussion; and 2) "Basic Plan", which will meet the minimum requirements specified in statute, and provide the basic tool.

If you have any questions please call me at 517-335-3174.

## DEVELOPING THE WATER WITHDRAWAL ASSESSMENT TOOL

### Full Plan

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>DNR</b>	<b>MSU</b>	<b>UM</b>	<b>USGS</b>	<b>DEQ</b>
Refine streamflow/fish Relationships	\$40,000		\$57,000		
Calculate index flows for stream reaches	\$42,000	\$26,500		\$40,000	a
Evaluate impact of well pumpage on streamflow, and develop the coarse screening tool				\$356,000	a
Develop site specific evaluation Process					a
Develop web/GIS interface		\$93,500			
Link process to water use data base					a
Testing period					a
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Sub Totals	\$82,000	\$120,000	\$57,000	\$396,000	a
<b>State funds required</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>				
<b>USGS match</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>				
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$810,000</b>				

Note: a = DEQ is seeking a separate appropriation to cover its costs.

**Basic Plan**

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>DNR</b>	<b>MSU</b>	<b>UM</b>	<b>USGS</b>	<b>DEQ</b>
Refine streamflow/fish relationships	\$39,000		\$42,000		
Calculate index flows for stream reaches	\$12,000	\$17,000			a
Evaluate impact of well pumpage on streamflow, and develop the coarse screening tool				\$300,000	a
Develop site specific evaluation process					a
Develop web/GIS interface		\$90,000			
Link process to water use data base					a
Testing period					a
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Sub Totals	\$51,000	\$107,000	\$42,000	\$300,000	a
<b>State funds required</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>				
<b>USGS match</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>				
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>\$615,000</b>				

Note: a = DEQ is seeking a separate appropriation to cover its costs.